

The Library of Congress'

EARLY STATE RECORDS PROJECT

converted from the original microfilm held by the
Vincent C. Immel Law Library, Saint Louis University

through the generous support of a grant from the

Council on Library and Information Resources

This document contains handwritten text that may be partially illegible due to age, penmanship, or deterioration of the medium. LLMC has scanned the material in the same format and page order in which it is maintained in the source document taken from the collection "Records of the States of the United States of America, a microfilm compilation."

N^o 21

Sir.

St Louis August 8th 1808

The season is fast advancing, and it appears to me, that if the Party destined to form the establishment at the rapid Demain, wait the return of the boats which convey Capt. Blumson and company to the Fire Prairie, that the factory on the Mississippi will not be established as early as the Secretary at War contemplates, or as much so as the public interests evidently requires. I have therefore thought it expedient to make you this written communication on the subject, and do earnestly request that the whole of the late Capt. Bissel's company be dispatched on that service as soon as boats and provisions can be provided for their accommodation. I have spoken to the Military Agent, who has informed me that a sufficient number of boats can be procured for this purpose in the course of a few days. By having the company entire

entire, the works at the Rapid Demogue will
be the sooner completed, and should the Secretary
at War not approve the plan I have suggested
to him of sending a part of that company to the
entrance of the Disconsing with a branch of that
factory, they can readily return to Belle Fontaine
after the works for their accommodation at the
the rapids are established. — Should the Secretary
eventually approve the scheme suggested, and the
company be not dispatched until the return of
Capt. Blinson's boats, or the receipt of his further
orders on this subject, the command destined to the
Disconsing will not have time to secure themselves
from the approaching winter, and consequently
that very interesting part of the proposed scheme
must fail for the present season, and our posi-
tion in the interim remain subject to the unpre-
dicted machinations of the British traders among the
Indians. — I advise also that the establishment on
the Mississippi should be made on the S. West
side above a small creek which discharges itself
into that river at the head of the or near the

N^o 21

commencement of the repaid Domain where I have
in a late council with the chiefs of the Sacs
and Foxes obtained a grant of three miles
square for that purpose. — Mr. Bailvin

will accompany the command and the Factor
as early as they are in readiness to move he
will take with him the annuity due the
Sacs and Foxes for the present year, which

I have many substantial reasons for not deliver-
ing at any other point but at the Repaid and then
in the presence of a military corps. This annuity
ought to be paid them by the 1st of October; but
previously to the delivery, it is necessary to con-
-vene the Sacs & Sacs which will necessarily
require some time. —

I am sorry to learn your indisposition, I hope it
will be but of short duration, but should it con-
-tinuance unfortunately prevent your ascending the
Mississippi with this command as the Secretary has requested
I ~~hope~~ trust that the commanding officer of the company
aided by the ^{instructions} orders which you can give him, will be enabled
to

to perform the duties which this service may require.

I am with sincere friendship and esteem

Yours Obedt Servt.

Merriether Lewis.

Sept 1808

To Col. Hunt &c

Col. Thomas Hunt.
Comd'g U.S. Regt. Infy.

N.B. If I can possibly leave St. Louis I will
ride up to camp tomorrow or the next day.

M.L.